

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 and 12-17 are pending in the present application, after deletion of claim 11. Claim 8 stands objected to for two antecedent basis informalities. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,345,465 to Gruner, *et al.* ("Gruner"). Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,606,952 to Sugimoto, *et al.* ("Sugimoto") in view of Gruner.

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the February 26, 2002 Office Action, and respectfully submit the foregoing amendments and following remarks in response thereto. Claim 8 has been amended to address the antecedent basis objections.

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the present invention is directed to anti-adhesive coatings on materials such as ceramics (*e.g.*, patterned silicon substrates), rather than materials such as polyimide resin substrates. Accordingly, claim 11 which contained related limitations has been canceled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 12-17. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the applied references, and respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

1. Amended Claim 1 and Its Dependent Claims Are Patentable Over Gruner.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 17 as being anticipated under § 102(b) by Gruner, since this reference does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an anti-adhesive surface coating acting as a protective layer over an element used in a motor vehicle, wherein the element is composed of at least one of silicon, silicon nitride, silicon dioxide, glass, metal and a ceramic.

The February 26, 2002 Office Action asserts that Gruner teaches a probe of thin sheets of a heat-resistance polymer having the hydrophobic coating of the present invention. (February 26, 2002 Office Action, paragraph 4). The substrate material in Gruner upon which the coating is applied is also a polymer material, specifically polyimide. (*See, e.g.*, Gruner at 2:40-43). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that it is directed to materials such

as ceramics, silicon-based crystals and metals, rather than polymer materials such as polyimide. There is nothing in Gruner which discloses or suggests the present invention's novel application of a thin coating of fluorormocers, fluorine-containing silanes, polymeric fluorocarbon resins, or partially fluorinated polymers onto materials such as ceramics, silicon-based crystals or metals.

Because Gruner does not disclose the invention recited in amended claim 1 or in its dependent claims, this reference does not anticipate amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-6, 8-10, 12-13 and 17 under § 102(b). The Applicants therefore respectfully request the pending § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

2. Claims 14-16 Are Patentable Under § 103(a) Over Sugimoto and Gruner.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 14-16 as being unpatentable under § 103(a) over the combination of Sugimoto and Gruner, since these references do not disclose or suggest all the claimed features of the present invention.

Initially, Applicants note that claims 14-16 depend from allowable claim 1. Furthermore, as noted above, Gruner does not disclose or suggest all the elements of amended claim 1. In addition, Sugimoto, which is directed to an automotive fuel hose, does not cure the deficiencies of Gruner as applied against claim 1. Since claims 14-16 depend from allowable parent claim 1, and since Sugimoto does not cure the deficiencies of Gruner as applied against parent claim 1, claims 14-16 are not taught or suggested by the combination of Sugimoto and Gruner. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the pending § 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

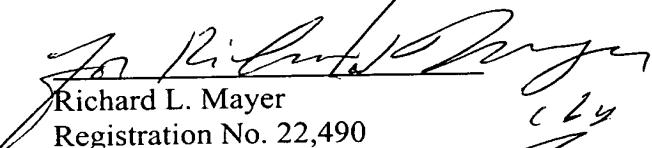
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-17 are allowable. The Applicants therefore earnestly solicit an early and favorable action on the merits and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to
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Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Thrice amended) An element for use in a motor vehicle, comprising:
an anti-adhesive surface coating acting as a protective layer,
wherein the coating contains at least one compound selected from the group
consisting of fluorormocers, fluorine-containing silanes, polymeric fluorocarbon resins, and
partially fluorinated polymers, and wherein the element is one of a sensor element and an
actuator element and is composed of at least one of silicon, silicon nitride, silicon dioxide,
glass, metal and a ceramic.

8. (Twice amended) The element accordingly to Claim 1, wherein the coating is one
of a [fluorine-containing polymer] polymeric fluorocarbon resin film or a [fluorosilane]
fluorine-containing silane coating.